

Individuals

8 MAY 2002

Comment Letter Number 27

Russ Kawz
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
PO Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Mr. Kawz,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed to the reconstruction of the Farad Diversion Dam on the Truckee River.

Since the destruction of the original Farad hydroelectric dam in the flood of 1997, the Truckee River has largely restored itself and now provides excellent fish & aquatic habitat. The Truckee also provides great fishing and kayaking opportunities.

27-1

Please select the "no-build" alternative and place my comments in the public record.

Sincerely,


John McHugh
14630-A Royal Way
Truckee, CA 96161

Response to Comment Letter Number 27

Response to Comment Number 27-1

Comment noted. Please see Master Response Alternative 1.

Russ Kanz,
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
PO Box 2000, Sacramento, CA
95812-2000.

Dear Mr. Russ Kanz

May 13, 2002

I am submitting a letter in response to the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Farad Diversion Dam.

I am in support of the "No Project Alternative" and will make reference to several portions of the DIER to support my position.

Specially, I will start by referring to section 1.4 *Permit and Environmental Review and Consultation Requirements*. It states

"The water quality certification process administered by SWRCB is designed to achieve the **highest water quality consistent with the maximum benefit** to the people of the state."

It is my opinion that the proposed project does not allow for the **maximum benefit** to the people of the state. The word maximum implies a comparison. Maximum does not mean better, or OK, good enough. It means a balance must be made that objectively weighs the impacts of a proposal with the benefits of a proposal, in an effort to optimize the resulting situation. It is the responsibility of the SWRCB to assess this comparison or balance. I do not feel this balance is met by this project or that this DEIR effectively addresses this and other issues.

28-1

Assumed Hydrologic/Operations Baseline.

The DEIR uses a 5-year "period of record" (October 1971 to September 1976) to suggest that power generation output under "historic" operating conditions averaged 13.3 GWh/year. This also appears to be the "baseline" assumption used in the "Analysis of Effects of Mitigation on Power Generation" (Appendix F), which concludes that, in the future, power generation output will "decline" up to 24% (on average?) depending on the operating scenario evaluated (Table F-1). (Of course, even a 24% "decline" represents a significant increase when compared to the current "no dam" condition.) There is, in any case, no discussion as to why such an old and limited "period of record" was chosen, particularly since the Farad plant has been in

28-2

operation "for nearly 100 years" (page S-1) and since the document itself concedes that, "[d]uring several drought years in the last 1970's and early 1990's, SPPC generated limited or no power [at the Farad or other hydropower] plant[s]" (page S-1). (In fact, in the 3 years prior to 1997 for which disaggregated generation data are readily available, net generation output at the Farad plant averaged only 8.0 GWh/year. Similarly, in 1992, the combined output of all SPPC hydropower plants amounted to only 12.1 GWh.) The document should be revised to provide the basis and justification for these assumptions in terms of their likely relevance for future hydrologic (and future operating) conditions, and/or those assumptions (and analyses) should be modified accordingly.

28-2
cont'd

During the original scoping meetings SWRCB identified several areas of controversy. The first area of controversy, as stated in section S.11, is "need for the project". Later in section 1.2.2 Scoping, *Project need* is the first subject to be presented. Yet the *need for the project* is never again addressed throughout the entire DEIR. In light of the above addressed subject, and the future outlook of reduce capacity, I believe the most significant problem with this proposed project is this *need for project*.

28-3

Likely Effects of TROA.

The DEIR provides only a cursory discussion of the Truckee River Operating Agreement negotiations and their potential effects on future hydropower operations at Farad. In particular, there is but scant reference to anticipated "changes in the exercise of SPPC's water rights" (page B-5, including above all SPPC's hydropower diversion rights) which will likely have significant effects (both positive and negative) on future power generation output, and which require that SPPC (or its successor) be compensated, under terms yet to be finalized, for any exercise of its agreement to "waive" those rights in order to facilitate upstream credit storage operations and/or improved instream flows. At a minimum, the document and operational analyses should be revised to explain and document these effects. To the extent that a "reconstructed dam" at Farad will require compensation for any such waivers or improvements in the future (i.e., relative to a status quo in which no such waivers or improvements are needed), the associated "dis-incentive effects" should also be described and analyzed. This, in turn, requires that the economic and financial assumptions which underlie the proposed reconstruction must be disclosed (see below).

28-4

Economic and Financial Assumptions/Data.

The DEIR is deficient in its failure to disclose any number of potentially significant financial and economic assumptions, without which it will be impossible to reach a reasoned and informed decision concerning the proposed reconstruction project, its assumed balance of costs vs. benefits, and its long-term operational implications. The relevant missing cost data include best available estimates (since 1997 or projected) for research/design/engineering, environmental compliance/permitting/outreach, construction, operation and maintenance, and rehabilitation for the proposed dam (and associated diversion works), for the Farad flume (including repair/replacement of a missing 300' segment near the old Farad dam site), and for an increasingly antiquated powerhouse, generators, and associated plant and equipment. (OM&R costs in all categories are particularly important as these are costs that, given the age of many components, are likely to increase with time if the dam is reconstructed, but are likely to be substantially avoided under the "no action" alternative.) For each of the above, it will also be important to disclose the amount(s) [to be] paid, directly or otherwise, by the applicant, the USBR (or other federal agencies), the SWRCB (or other state agencies), other entities (if any), and by insurance. (While the fact that a dam insurance policy may be "driving" the reconstruction effort is not disclosed in the DEIR, it was the subject of some discussion at the public meetings in Truckee and should now be disclosed in detail, particularly if alternatives to reconstruction – e.g., cash settlement, alternative power replacement, Truckee River restoration, etc. -- are possible as part of that policy.)

28-5

Mitigation for Impact on Fisheries

Despite SPPC's efforts to construct a "fish-friendly" dam, it would be difficult to believe the dam will not have an adverse affect on the fisheries of the Truckee River. In lieu of this, the DEIR is deficient in providing any mitigation to this point. Mitigation can and should be, assuming the dam were to be built, in the form of monitoring and restoration at other sites in the Truckee River to be paid for by SPPC or Truckee Meadows Water Authority.

28-6

Sale to TMWA

While the DEIR (page 2-1) describes at least some of the related interests of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority, it is deficient in its apparent failure to disclose that all of SPPC's hydropower facilities and rights (including those associated with Farad) are the subject of a pending sale to TMWA (i.e., in due course "the applicant" will be TMWA, not SPPC). Whether TMWA has the same interests/objectives

28-7

in the proposed project as SPPC (or not), the fact of its ultimate interest in the Truckee River hydropower system should not be hidden from public view.

28-7
cont'd

DEIS?

Given the early involvement of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (page 2-4) in design/engineering work related to the proposed reconstruction of this non-federal dam (i.e., work justified in part due to significant federal interests in Truckee River operations and facilities), the Farad reconstruction proposal should be reviewed pursuant to NEPA as well as CEQA.

28-8

I believe the points presented above highlight my dis-satisfaction with the DEIR and the proposed project.

Thank you,
Andy Rost
PO Box 3438
Truckee, CA 96160
530 550 8564
raeandandy@hotmail.com

Response to Comment Letter Number 28

Response to Comment Number 28-1

The purpose of the EIR is to inform the decisionmaker and the public of a project's significant environmental effects, ways to minimize those effects, and to describe reasonable alternatives to the project. These effects have been fully disclosed in the EIR. The SWRCB must review and consider the information in the Final EIR, including the comments it has received, before deciding whether or how to approve the project. Thus, the SWRCB's decision on the merits regarding water quality certification and any balancing will be done after the SWRCB has considered the Final EIR and will not be included in the Final EIR itself. Please also see Master Response Alternative 1.

Response to Comment Number 28-2

SPPC provided their average power generation output based on their records extending back to the early 1900's. The impact analysis in Chapter 9 and Appendix F uses a 32-year hydrologic period from 1968 to 2000. This period of record was selected because it represents the most accurate data on reservoir operations and river flows because it includes data with all 7 upstream reservoirs operational. Appendix F is provided to identify the potential impacts of the mitigation on power generation and values are averaged.

Response to Comment Number 28-3

Please see Master Response Need 1 and response to comment 1-1.

Response to Comment Number 28-4

The Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA) is still being negotiated and a final and effective TROA is not anticipated for several years. Before TROA is signed and effective, it must be evaluated under state and federal environmental laws, including CEQA and NEPA. Although California and the Department of the Interior previously prepared a joint EIS/EIR, it must be revised and the parties have not yet prepared a new draft document. The SWRCB's analysis of TROA in the Draft EIR is based on the available information.

The EIR identifies potential environmental effects associated with the proposed project and included mitigation to minimize or avoid adverse environmental impacts. The SWRCB recognizes that the TROA will result in changes in reservoir operation upstream of the Farad Diversion Dam. One of the purposes of TROA is to enhance spawning flows in the lower Truckee River. The requirements in Mitigation Measure 6-3 for a bypass flow of 150 cfs will be achieved through a reduction in power generation and not a reallocation or reoperation of reservoir capacity. Thus, the proposed project does not affect Truckee River reservoir operations and thus will not affect operations under TROA.

This comment does not identify significant environmental issues not addressed in the Draft EIR. It appears that the commentor is interested in the economic impacts of TROA on the proposed project, but such economic analysis is not required under CEQA.

Response to Comment Number 28-5

CEQA does not require an economic or cost-benefit analysis of a project. The environmental effects associated with the project are described in the draft EIR. Please see Master Response Cost 2.

Response to Comment Number 28-6

The project's fish passage facilities were designed according to National Marine Fishery Service standards, and include the latest innovations in fish passage design. Mitigation Measure 6-2 will ensure the facility operates as designed. Off-site mitigation is not needed to mitigate for project impacts on aquatic resources. No changes are proposed to the Final EIR.

Response to Comment Number 28-7

The Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) may be the future owner of the Farad Diversion Dam. Water quality certification restrictions as well as mitigation measures proposed as part of any project approval will be required of any future owner.

Response to Comment Number 28-8

A Section 404 permit for the proposed project will result in a federal discretionary act that will trigger a NEPA review. The US Army Corps of Engineers is currently processing this permit application. An EA is anticipated following the Final EIR. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) was only under contract to construct the physical model and is not issuing a regulatory decision on the project.

Thomas E. Gray
1835 Franklin Road, Carson City, NV 89706
(775) 883-1698

May 8, 2002

Mr. Russ Kanz
California State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: Farad Diversion Dam Replacement Project
Public Comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report

Dear Mr. Kanz:

This letter is submitted as a public comment on the Farad Diversion Dam Replacement Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR).

I have twelve years experience as a recreational kayaker and rafter on rivers throughout the western U.S. As a long-time resident of Reno and Carson City, I have spent more days boating on the Truckee than on any other river. I generally boat Class III and IV runs, with an occasional Class V here and there. I have run all stretches of the Truckee between Lake Tahoe and Reno many times, and was in the group of nine kayakers and four cat boaters who made the first descent of Blowout Rapid (at the site of the former Farad Dam) on January 3, 1997, at a flow of 8000 cubic feet per second (cfs). I frequently kayak-surf the "Park and Ride" wave at the bottom of Blowout Rapid when flows are 1000 cfs or higher. I have been active in the Reno-based Sierra Nevada Whitewater Club (SNWC) from its inception in 1997, and from 1997 to 1999 I represented SNWC on the Public Advisory Committee for Dam Safety, convened by Sierra Pacific Power Company (SPPC). I am a California Registered Geologist, and I currently work as an Environmental Scientist for the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection. I am writing this comment as a private citizen.

I would like to thank the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and Jones and Stokes for preparing a remarkably comprehensive Draft EIR. I would also like to thank SPPC for expending extra time and money to create an unusually environmentally-friendly design for their replacement dam.

29-1

I contend, however, that the Proposed Project (Alternative A), even with the mitigation measures proposed by SWRCB, will have remaining significant impacts on recreational and commercial boating opportunities. Therefore, I support either the No Project Alternative (Alternative C), or a

29-2

modified version of the Proposed Project with additional mitigation measures. Arguments supporting the contention that significant impacts will remain are presented below, followed by suggestions for additional mitigation measures.

29-2
cont'd

Arguments for Remaining Significant Impacts with the Proposed Project and Proposed Mitigation Measures

In the Final EIR, Tables 9-4 and 9-6 should be modified (or new Tables created) to show how many days in each month the 400 cfs and 600 cfs boating thresholds are met, and what the resultant percent reduction is, when Mitigation Measures 9-1 (weekend recreational flows, pg. 9-16) and 6-5 (maximum ramping rates, pg. 6-20) are implemented. Without daily mean flow data, which was not provided in the Draft EIR, I am unable to calculate precisely how many additional days would meet the boating thresholds with the implementation of Mitigation Measures 9-1 and 6-5. Nonetheless, certain conclusions can still be drawn, as demonstrated below.

29-3

As Mitigation Measure 9-1 is currently written, if flows upstream of the dam are less than 400 cfs on the first weekend of the month, power diversions will not cease, hence for that month Mitigation Measure 9-1 will not add any additional days that meet boating thresholds. Similarly, if flows upstream of the dam are at or above 835 cfs on the first weekend of the month, then although SPPC may cease power diversions (if flows are below 1700 cfs), there will be no additional days that meet the 400 cfs kayaking threshold, because the in-stream bypass flow would already be at or above the 400 cfs threshold. Hence, only when flows upstream of the dam are within the relatively narrow range between 400 and 835 cfs on the first weekend of the month will the implementation of Mitigation Measure 9-1 create additional days meeting the 400 cfs kayaking threshold.

29-4

When upstream flows are between 635 and 835 cfs another factor could influence the number of additional days that meet the 400 cfs kayaking threshold. Under these flow conditions, ramp-up to weekend recreational flows, in accordance with the ramping guidelines in Mitigation Measure 6-5, may result in the 400 cfs threshold being met on Friday morning, thereby providing the possibility of three additional days meeting the threshold that month. A similar effect could result during down-ramping after weekend recreational flows, but it would occur only when upstream flows are within the extremely narrow range between 815 and 835 cfs, and therefore is considered insignificant.

Based on the foregoing arguments, implementation of Mitigation Measures 9-1 (weekend recreational flows) and 6-5 (maximum ramping rates) may add zero, one, two, or three boating days per month between April and September, depending on what the flow rates are on the first weekend of each month. Tables 1 and 2 below are modified versions of Table 9-4 from the Draft EIR. If we assume that Mitigation Measures 9-1 and 6-5 add two boating days per month, Table 1 shows the total days reduced and the percent reduction due to the Proposed Project with Mitigation Measures 9-1 and 6-5, based on the 400 cfs

kayaking threshold. If we assume that Mitigation Measures 9-1 and 6-5 add three boating days per month, Table 2 shows the total days reduced and the percent reduction due to the Proposed Project with Mitigation Measures 9-1 and 6-5. Note that the percent reduction figures are still very high with Mitigation Measures 9-1 and 6-5. When these data are evaluated with respect to the Criteria for Determining Impact Significance on page 9-9 of the Draft EIR, it is concluded that, even with implementation of Mitigation Measures 9-1 and 6-5, the Proposed Project will have a *significant impact* on recreational boating opportunities.

Table 1. Number of Days Per Month that the 400 cfs Level is Met under Existing Conditions, Proposed Project Without Mitigations 9-1 and 6-5, and Proposed Project With Mitigations 9-1 and 6-5, (based on the Hydrologic Record, if it is assumed that Mitigations 9-1 and 6-5 Add Two Days Per Month).

Month	Existing Conditions (days)	With Project But Without Mitigations 9-1 and 6-5 (days)	With Project And Mitigations 9-1 and 6-5 (days)	Total Days Reduced With Project And Mitigations 9-1 and 6-5	Percent Reduction With Project And Mitigations 9-1 and 6-5 (%)
March	24	11	11*	13*	54*
April	29	18	20	9	31
May	31	25	27	4	13
June	28	16	18	10	36
July	28	7	9	19	68
August	27	2	4	23	85
September	24	2	4	20	83

* As currently written, Mitigation Measure 9-1 will not be in effect during March.

29-4
 cont'd

Table 2. Number of Days Per Month that the 400 cfs Level is Met under Existing Conditions, Proposed Project Without Mitigations 9-1 and 6-5, and Proposed Project With Mitigations 9-1 and 6-5, (based on the Hydrologic Record, if it is assumed that Mitigations 9-1 and 6-5 Add Three Days Per Month).

Month	Existing Conditions (days)	With Project But Without Mitigations 9-1 and 6-5 (days)	With Project And Mitigations 9-1 and 6-5 (days)	Total Days Reduced With Project And Mitigations 9-1 and 6-5	Percent Reduction With Project And Mitigations 9-1 and 6-5 (%)
March	24	11	11*	13*	54*
April	29	18	21	8	28
May	31	25	28	3	10
June	28	16	19	9	32
July	28	7	10	18	64
August	27	2	5	22	81
September	24	2	5	19	79

* As currently written, Mitigation Measure 9-1 will not be in effect during March.

29-4
cont'd

Suggested Additional Mitigation Measures

I support most of the mitigation measures proposed in the Draft EIR, including minimum in-stream flows of at least 150 cfs (Mitigation Measure 6-3), ramping rate guidelines (Mitigation Measure 6-5), and the establishment of improved recreation access at the Farad Powerhouse (Mitigation Measure 9-2). I also support the general concept of recreational boating releases, but based on the remaining significant impact of only one weekend release per month (as shown above), I support additional releases each month, as well as additional mitigation measures, as outlined below.

1. Additional Recreational Boating Releases.

Impacts to recreation could be mitigated in part by increasing the number of recreational flow weekends to two per month and increase the seasonal duration to extend from March to September instead of April to September. March has the fourth highest mean monthly flow rate and is a popular time for recreational boaters on the Truckee River.

29-5

2. Participation in the Truckee River Recreation Plan

Impacts to recreation could be mitigated in part by implementing navigational and recreational improvements downstream on the Truckee River as described in the Truckee River Recreation Plan¹. The Recreation Plan, authorized by the Nevada Commission on Tourism, (NCOT) integrates river recreation plan elements to enhance recreational opportunities within the Truckee River corridor from the California/Nevada state line to the eastern edge of Truckee Meadows in the City of Sparks.

The Truckee River Recreation Plan promotes safe recreation in and around the Truckee River through modifications to the riverbed and banks. Key themes recommended within this plan are: (1) remove or modify existing obstacles, such as dams, to allow safe passage for rafts, kayaks, canoes, or inner tubers; (2) install channel bed improvements to allow safe passage during low flows; (3) conduct bank restoration at selected areas and improve safe river access; and (4) create destination whitewater parks. Similar river improvements have been constructed within other cities in the United States and have met with great success.

The lack of low-flow channels in the Truckee River limits recreational opportunities. In many sections of the river there is no low flow channel and the water spreads out across the entire channel bottom. Typical sections include Mayberry Street Bridge to Ambros Park, Booth Street to Wingfield Park, Center Street to Lake Street, across from Idlewild Park, and Highway 395 to Fishermans Park. Where the channel bottom is very wide, the rocky nature of the channel bottom negates safe boat passage during the warm summer months when recreational use could be the highest.

A Steering Committee was created in order to implement the concepts presented in the Truckee River Recreation Plan. Currently, the Steering Committee is comprised of: Nevada Lt. Governor, Lorraine Hunt; Reno Parks Director, Nancy McCartney; Reno Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority (RSCVA) Chair, Mindy Elliot; RSCVA President, Jeff Beckelman; Washoe County Commission Chair, Jim Shaw; Mayor, City of Sparks, Tony Armstrong; Mayor, City of Reno, Jeff Griffin; Director, Nevada Commission on Tourism, Bruce Bommarito; and Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Malyn Malquist.

The Steering Committee meets semi-monthly to coordinate efforts in implementing the Recreation Plan. The Recreation Plan has been endorsed by the City of Reno, City of Sparks, Washoe County, and is the recreational component to the Community Coalition's Flood Control Project. The Recreation Plan is also very popular with local rafting and

¹ Resource Concepts, Inc., Recreation Engineering and Planning, Research and Consulting Services, Kennedy Jenks Consultants, University of Nevada, Reno, Center for Economic Development, 2001. *Truckee River Recreation Plan*. Unpublished report prepared for the Nevada Commission on Tourism.

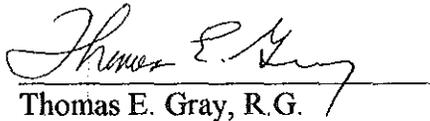
boating enthusiasts. SPPC could mitigate for recreational impacts caused by the Proposed Project by funding or implementing components of the Recreation Plan.

29-6
cont'd

More information regarding the Truckee River Recreation Plan can be obtained from Chris Crystal with the Nevada Commission on Tourism at 775-687-4322.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments to the Draft EIR. Should you have any questions regarding the content of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 775-883-1698.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Gray, R.G.

Response to Comment Letter Number 29

Response to Comment Number 29-1

Comment noted.

Response to Comment Number 29-2

Please see Master Response Alternative 1.

Response to Comment Number 29-3

Please see Master Response Recreation 1. In the event that the Mitigation Measure 9-3 (formerly Mitigation Measure 9-1) must be implemented, the proposed mitigation will result in approximately 2 to 3 days per month increase in boating opportunities for rafters and kayakers. As is illustrated in the tables provided in this comment letter, there will continue to be a substantial reduction in boating opportunities. However, the SWRCB determined that these impacts were mitigated to a less-than-significant level with mitigation because the mitigation provides regular/consistent opportunities for recreational use and because the mitigation includes a mechanism to provide another weekend of flows in the event actual use numbers are high.

Response to Comment Number 29-4

Please see response to comment 29-3.

Response to Comment Number 29-5

Additional recreational flows are not proposed as mitigation for the proposed project. Please see response to comment 29-3.

Response to Comment Number 29-6

See Master Response Recreation 1.

MEMO:

From The Desk Of
JACK FLEIG

RK

5-3-02

Mr. Russ Kanz,

I was unable to attend the meeting in Truckee April 26 02 regarding a rebuild of Farad Dam.

I love to fish the Truckee River, what a wonderful fishery, it is a resource we should treasure. My choice of the three alternatives would be the one that leaves this river in its natural state and Alternative C, no dam.

Thank you Jack Fleig
(775) 831-0196

Response to Comment Letter Number 30

Response to Comment Number 30-1

Please see Master Response Alternative 1.

Sierra Wildflowers

Desert Paintbrush *Castilleja chromosa*

Sagebrush scrub and adjacent desert. 2,000 - 7,000 feet
Very common. The flowers may be eaten. Pollination is
mainly by hummingbirds.



*Please - do not rebuild
the forest dem.*

*Mrs R. M. Brown
2400 Via Substante
Palo Verde Estates
Ca 90274-2029*

*Russ Kang
State Water Resources
Control Board
Division of Water Rights
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, Ca 95812-2000*

31-1

Lyn Haber, Photographer

295-14

Response to Comment Letter Number 31

Response to Comment Number 31-1

Comment noted.

Wayne Vandergriff
12584 Prosser Dam Road
Truckee, CA 96161
(530) 587-4943

May 7, 2002

Russ Kanz
State Water Resources Control Board
P. O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: Farad Dam project

Dear Mr. Kanz,

I was fortunate to be able to attend the afternoon meeting in Truckee on April 26th regarding the Farad Dam project. I found the meeting to be informative and well run, and the solutions provided by Sierra Pacific Power to be reasonable. I have two comments regarding the mitigation.

First, I think a minimum 150 cfs stream flow should be mandatory.

32-1

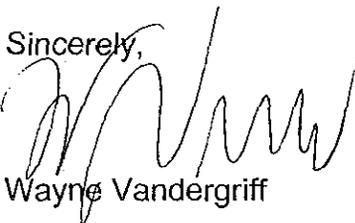
Second, it seems this project is only a good first step. Returning the health of the river will not be accomplished by the proposed changes to the Farad Dam. There are numerous water diversions downstream, and they all affect the health of the river. I am not sure of the ownership, but I am sure that Sierra Pacific has control or ownership of at least one, and maybe more of these diversions. I think that mitigation and dam changes should be instituted by Sierra Pacific at all diversions and dams they own or control on the Truckee. Perhaps not all at once, but a time table should be worked out whereby these changes are instituted throughout the Truckee watershed.

32-2

I feel these requirements should be a part of any mitigation required for reconstructing the Farad Dam.

Thank you for your time and effort.

Sincerely,



Wayne Vandergriff

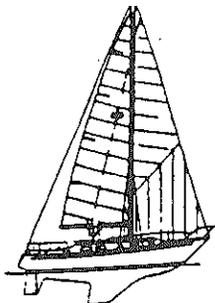
Response to Comment Letter Number 32

Response to Comment Number 32-1

The proposed minimum flow in the EIR is 150 cfs.

Response to Comment Number 32-2

Comment noted. SPPC's only project pending before the SWRCB is SPPC's application for water quality certification for the Farad Diversion Dam. Moreover, some of SPPC's facilities are located in Nevada and the SWRCB has no regulatory jurisdiction in Nevada.



Windward Luv

Call letters: WYV 5486

Don & Lenna Hossack
P. O. Box 1733
Truckee, CA 96160 USA

Comment Letter Number 33

May 8, 2002

Russ Kanz
State of California Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812

We read an article about the power plant, dam and flume on the Truckee River at Farad. We wanted to let you know we support the reconstruction of this power plant. At a time like this using water for electricity makes far more sense than coal or oil, and it is there for just the repair of an existing facility.

33-1

We support Alternative "A". We would support "B" but if the concerns of the fishermen, and boats can be helped by "A" then that makes sense. Fish spawn both below and above the old dam. The Power station has been there long before any of the fishermen or boaters can remember so they should be happy with the changes, but either way is is shame not have that power plant supplying power to 19,000 homes

33-2

Sincerely:


Donald D. and Lenna J. Hossack
(530) 587-3963

PS; When it is rebuilt we would love to have a tour of the power plant.

Response to Comment Letter Number 33

Response to Comment Number 33-1

Comment noted. No change required.

Response to Comment Number 33-2

Comment noted. Alternative A is the Proposed Project, and the mitigation required for approval serves to address and minimize environmental impacts.

May 8, 2002

Mr. Russ Kanz
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Re: Farad Dam Proposal

Dear Mr. Kanz:

Based on my review of the Farad DEIR, please note my support for the "No Project" alternative. I do not think the dam should be rebuilt and optimum flows of 250 cfs should be maintained in order to restore threatened and sport fisheries, recreational values and to achieve federal and state water quality objectives.

34-1

Conversely, if this minimum instream flow cannot be achieved without rebuilding the dam, enhanced boating and public access measures, as well as fish passage, are needed to mitigate against deleterious effects.

34-2

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,



Robin Truitt
5 Neila Way
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Response to Comment Letter Number 34

Response to Comment Number 34-1

Comment noted. Please see Master Responses Fish 3, Recreation 1, and Alternative 1.

Response to Comment Number 34-2

Please see response to comment 34-1.

State of California

Before the State Water Resources Control Board

Farad Diversion Dam Replacement Project

Truckee River

**Draft Farad Diversion Dam Replacement Project Environmental
Impact Report**

Water Quality Certification Process

**Comments by Bob Baiocchi, Interested Party and California Licensed
Angler**

I have reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the proposed Farad Diversion Dam Replacement Project. The following are my comments:

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is reviewing Sierra Pacific Power Company's (SPPC) application for water quality certification under Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) to replace a hydropower diversion structure on the Truckee River. The EIR analyses the environmental impacts of the proposed project, identifies ways to reduce or avoid adverse environmental impacts resulting from the proposed project, identifies and assess alternatives to the proposed project, and assesses cumulative impacts.

Project Background

I reference the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the proposed Farad Diversion Dam Replacement Project; March 2002; Prepared by Jones and Stokes; Prepared for State Water Resources Control Board.

Alternatives

The superior environmental alternative is the No-Project Alternative. In order for the SWRCB to protect all of the beneficial uses of the state's water

and also to protect the public trust resources of the Truckee River, the SWRCB must adopt the superior environmental alternatives, which is the No-Project Alternative. Under the No-Project Alternative SPPC would not build the proposed dam or rebuild any dam. The public trust resources of the Truckee River are: (1) Federally listed and Protected Lahontan Cutthroat Trout species and their habitat; (2) Rainbow Trout species and their habitat; (3) Brown Trout species and their habitat; (4) Macro invertebrate species and their habitat; (5) Public Angling; (6) Public Boating; (7) Water Quality; and (8) Other public trust resources and benefits not mentioned.

35-1
cont'd

Considering the public trust resources of the Truckee River would not be affected at all resulting from the No-Project Alternative, the SWRCB must deny water quality certification and select the No-Project Alternative.

Fish – Recreation (Boating)

The ramping of flows for boating interests on weekends as a result of the proposed project will most likely effect trout species and their habitat, and most likely will affect macro invertebrate species and their habitat. Insects provide the food source for trout species in the river. Trout species such as listed Lahontan Trout species may also be stranded resulting from the ramping of flows on weekends to satisfy boating interests.

CEQA requires monitoring. In the event the SWRCB approves water quality certification for the proposed project, the SWRCB must require that SPPC monitor the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to trout species and their habitat, and also insect species and their habitat resulting from the ramping of flows to satisfy boating interests. A five to ten year study would be appropriate. In the event ramping flows on weekends to satisfy boating interests effects listed and non-listed trout species and macro invertebrate species, weekend boating flows must be deleted from the water quality certification requirements and also deleted from the operations of the proposed project to protect the beneficial uses of the state's water.

35-2

The No-Project Alternative would avoid any effects to trout species and their habitat, and insect species and their habitat resulting from the ramping of flows to satisfy boating interests on selected weekends.

Sportfishing

There is a significant amount of fishing for trout in the Truckee River. The release of water from the proposed project dam to satisfy boating interests will most likely adversely affect sportfishing for trout species. Wading for sportfishing purposes may be impossible and also dangerous at preferred boating flows. Young people wade and fish. The elderly wade and fish. The approval of flows that potential could adversely affect sportfishing and could be dangerous to “young people” and the “elderly” would not be the beneficial use of the state’s water.

The SWRCB must require SPPC to conduct a detailed site-specific fishability study at various flow levels before approving the proposed project to protect public safety (young people and the elderly) and also protect sportfishing. As a result of the fishability study, the SWRCB must determine the amount of water to be released from the proposed dam to satisfy boating interests and to protect public safety (wading – young people and the elderly) in conjunction with protecting the fishery resources. Aside from the protection of the trout fishery, the number one priority must be the protection of public safety when determining whether weekend boating flows would be reasonable, in the public interest, and consistent with the beneficial uses of the state’s water. The SWRCB must not put people at risk to satisfy boating interests (high weekend flows).

35-3

Fish Screen

One part of the proposed mitigation for the proposed project is to construct and maintain a screen fish to prevent trout species from entering the diversion works and the flume and being harmed. Fish screens are not 100% effective. Consequently, most likely, trout species may be entrained and harmed in the diversion work.

CEQA requires monitoring. In the event the SWRCB approves the proposed project, SPPC must monitor the diversion works to determine the number of trout and specific trout species that most likely will be diverted, entrained and harmed in the diversion works. There must be a form of compensation by SPPC when trout are harmed in the diversion works. However, the No Project Alternative would not cause harm to trout because the project would no longer divert water.

35-4

The Flume

The flume is old and leaks water. In order to prevent the waste of the state's water resulting from water being unreasonably wasted and lost because of the flume, in the event the SWRCB approves the proposed project, the SWRCB must require SPPC to construct a screened diversion pipe (from the dam to the power plant) to prevent the unreasonable use and unreasonable diversion and use of the state's water, and also to prevent the waste of the state's water.

35-5

Water Temperatures

The DEIR shows there is serious concern that flows released from the dam may affect trout species (all life stages) resulting from elevated water temperatures resulting from the proposed project. CEQA requires monitoring. In order to protect the beneficial use of the state's water and also to prevent harm to trout, SPPC must be required by the SWRCB to install and maintain a full time water temperature monitoring device in the river above the power plant for the life of the project.

35-6

When water temperatures reach a potential detrimental level adverse to trout species (Lahontan, Rainbow, Brown) and cold water species, the proposed project must be taken off-line immediately and SPPC must be required to release all of the water from the dam into the river.

Daily Flow Requirements for Trout Species and Their Habitat

In the event the SWRCB approves the proposed project, there must be adequate daily flow requirements from the dam to protect all trout species and their habitat, and also all macro invertebrate species and their habitat.

I have reviewed the "Instream Flow Recommendations For Fishery Resources in the Truckee River System, California" at Table 6-2 on page 6-10. The instream flow recommendations were recommended by the California Department of Fish and Game in 1996. Those studies are six (6) years old.

35-7

The minimum daily flows recommended by SPPC to protect fishery resources throughout the year shows that there will be adverse effects to habitat for trout species. Reduced habitat effects trout populations and is a

limiting factor. However the preferred daily flows to protect fishery resources throughout the year shows there will not be any effects to trout habitat. Consequently, to protect the beneficial use of the state's water, in the event the SWRCB approves the proposed project, the SWRCB must require the preferred daily flows for fishery resources as follows:

October-January – Spawning and Incubation	200 cfs
February-March – Rearing	250 cfs
April-July – Spawning and Incubation	200 cfs
August-September – Rearing	250 cfs

35-7
cont'd

It appears the above-preferred daily flow for fishery resources would protect wading (Public Safety - Young Children and the Elderly) for sportfishing purposes.

Also, in the event the SWRCB approves the proposed project, the SWRCB must require the construction and maintenance of a state of the art fulltime measuring device that measure the amount of water bypassed from the proposed dam to protect downstream public trust fishery resources.

Water Rights

It appears that SPPC may have lost its pre-1914 water rights. SPPC may not have put the claimed pre-1914 water rights to continuous beneficial use.

Once acquired, an appropriative right (pre-1914) can be maintained only by continuous beneficial use of water. Therefore, regardless of the amount claimed in the original notice of appropriation, or at the time diversion and use first began, the amount which can now be rightfully claimed under an appropriative right initiated prior to December 19, 1914, has become fixed by actual beneficial use, both as to amount and season of diversion. In order to now successfully assert an appropriative right which was initiated prior to December 19, 1914, where the validity of the right is disputed, evidence is required of both the original appropriation and the subsequent maintenance of the right by continuous and diligent application of the water to beneficial use.

35-8

The SWRCB must require evidence from SPPC that it has maintain the claimed pre-1914 water right based on maintenance of the right by continuous and diligent application of the water to beneficial use. That information, including a determination by the SWRCB, must be included in the EIR.

35-8

Lahontan Cutthroat Trout

The proposed project has the potential to "take" Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (all life stages). The provisions of the federal Endangered Species Act protect Lahontan Cutthroat Trout. Consequently, SPPC must be required by the SWRCB to obtain a "take" permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The terms and conditions of the "take" permit must be incorporated into the SWRCB water quality certification for the proposed project to protect the beneficial use of the Truckee River.

35-9

The DEIR is not complete without the terms and condition recommended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect and prevent jeopardy to Lahontan Cutthroat Trout.

That concludes my comments. Please place my name on the mailing list and please provide me with the final EIR and any supplemental draft environmental documents and all letters pertaining to this matter.

If there are any questions, I can be reached at my office at 530-836-1115. My fax is 530-836-2062.

Respectfully Submitted



Bob Baiocchi, Interested Party and California Licensed Angler
P.O. Box 1790
Graeagle, CA 96103

Dated: _____

May 6, 02

Response to Comment Letter Number 35

Response to Comment Number 35-1

Please see Master Responses Fish 1, Alternative 1, and Cost 1.

Response to Comment Number 35-2

Please see Master Response Fish 4.

Response to Comment Number 35-3

Please see Master Response Fish 4. In the event Mitigation Measure 9-3 is implemented, the magnitude of the increase and ramping of flows is not expected to be large enough or quick enough to result in adverse public safety effects on anglers. No additional changes are proposed.

Response to Comment Number 35-4

Monitoring is proposed as part of Mitigation Measure 6-2. No additional mitigation is required.

Response to Comment Number 35-5

Water is needed to maintain the flume and Mitigation Measure 4-2 ensures that these diversions are reasonable.

Response to Comment Number 35-6

Please see Master Responses Water Quality 1 and 2.

Response to Comment Number 35-7

Please see Master Responses Fish 1 and Fish 3.

Response to Comment Number 35-8

The purpose of the EIR is to inform the decisionmaker and the public of a project's significant environmental effects, ways to minimize those effects, and to describe reasonable alternatives to the project. These environmental effects have been fully disclosed in the EIR. The suggested evaluation of SPPC's water rights requires administrative or judicial review that is distinct from the environmental review required under CEQA. The SWRCB, however, will review and consider the information in the Final EIR, including the comments it has received, before deciding whether or how to approve the project.

Response to Comment Number 35-9

The Corps is currently determining if consultation with the USFWS is needed under Section 7 of the ESA. It may not because Lahontan cutthroat trout is not present in the project area.

Dear Mr. Kang,

As a member of Friends of the River and as an integral part of the chain of life along with the fish, the water, the air and the soil I urge you, beg you not to rebuild the Farad dam. We do not need anymore hydroelectric dams in this state. We need humans to let nature take its course without intervention. Please do not rebuild this dam. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Julie Drucker
Julie Drucker
3052 Wheeler St.
Berkeley, CA

94705

Response to Comment Letter Number 36

Response to Comment Number 36-1

Comment noted.

TO: Russ Kanz
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights

FROM: Darin Bue
Resident
Floriston, California

RE: Farad Power Diversion

5/2/02

Dear Russ,

I'm pleased to hear that fish migration and recreational use by boaters on the Truckee are being considered in the design of the new dam at Floriston.

There is another issue that concerns me, which I haven't noticed being addressed. As a long time resident of Floriston, the wooden flume that transports water from the dam at Floriston to the powerhouse at Farad (as well as the flume that serves the Fleisch Power House) holds a place of nostalgia in my mind and the minds of many long time residents of the area. The rustic wooden construction creates a nice effect that is enhanced in winter by the huge ice cycles beneath the flume formed by water that leaks between the cracks in the wood and freezes before it hits the ground.

Unfortunately the cost of the aesthetic effect many of us enjoy so much, is the rapid deterioration of valuable wood. It has always seemed to me that the flumes in this canyon were in a perpetual state of being replaced. The town of Floriston and myself have been the grateful recipients of many useful wood members salvaged from the replacement process. In spite of my gratitude for some of the by-products and side effects of the flumes, it is clear to me that the era of plenty that dictated the original design of these power-generating systems is past. To continue to use natural resources in this wasteful manner is something that has come to be viewed by the general public as being flagrantly irresponsible. I would like to encourage an approach that is responsive to public sentiment in favor of more sustainable practices. Perhaps flumes made of more durable materials. Maybe reconsideration of the wisdom in maintaining such a small power station at all. I may have cherished memories of the old wooden flumes, but I would place a much higher value on seeing the world change for the better, especially in the area I call home.

Sincerely, Darin Bue



37-1

37-2

Response to Comment Letter Number 37

Response to Comment Number 37-1

Comment noted.

Response to Comment Number 37-2

The Draft EIR evaluated the impacts of the flume leakage on beneficial uses. Maintenance and repair of the flume is not part of proposed project and was not evaluated in the Draft EIR.

RK

KEVIN WOLF & ASSOCIATES

April 1, 2002

Russ Kanz
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
PO Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000.

Dear Mr. Kanz,

I am writing to express my support for the No Dam/No Project Alternative for the proposed reconstruction of the Farad Dam on the Truckee River. This dam should not be rebuilt. It should not generate power. The site should be restored to a pre-dam condition.

38-1

The No Dam alternative is the best option for meeting the fishery, flows and water quality objectives and goals. This is the only alternative that advances the public trust values for the river.

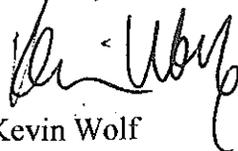
The owners of the dam can divert water from other locations. There are plenty of alternatives for the small amount of hydroelectric power that might be generated at the site. Any hydro power project at the site would require subsidies in the use of the river, water quality damages, recreation impacts, fishery harm etc. If there was a way to fully pay for these costs, the hydro project would not be profitable and wouldn't be built. It only works financially because the public will sacrifice public trust values for the generation. We don't need to do that and we shouldn't.

38-2

38-3

I hope you will be clear and firm to the dam proponents and end the effort now. Do not waste your own time, the public's time or the proponents time by giving any chance that this dam can be rebuilt. It shouldn't be.

Sincerely



Kevin Wolf



Response to Comment Letter Number 38

Response to Comment Number 38-1

Comment noted. Please see Master Response Alternative 1.

Response to Comment Number 38-2

Please see Master Response Need 1 and 2.

Response to Comment Number 38-3

Please see Master Response Need 1.

Comment Letter Number 39

August B. Cenname
P.O. Box 8088
Tahoe City, CA 96145
(530) 581-1352

May 1, 2002

Mr. Russ Kanz
State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Rights
PO Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Dear Mr. Kanz:

I am writing to encourage you and those involved in the proposed reconstruction of the Farad Diversion Dam to decide NOT to proceed with this project because of the damage it will do to one of the most vibrant wildlife habitats and sources of outdoor recreation in the Tahoe area.

39-1

The Truckee river below the proposed dam has demonstrated a remarkable ability to restore itself after the old dam was destroyed. This is an indication of the strength and importance of this river as a natural habitat. In addition, as both a kayaker and as a flyfisherman, I have seen first-hand how this river, unconstrained by the Farad Diversion Dam, is an important recreational resource for the community – including both local residents and its many visitors.

39-2

Without the Farad Dam, Sierra Pacific Power Company can utilize its Truckee River water rights using other existing downstream diversions. Construction of the dam will degrade this area and render virtually worthless its ecological, recreational, and economic values. By simply deciding NOT to build this dam, we can ensure the meeting of water quality objectives; providing optimum flows for fish, recreation, and other beneficial uses; restoring the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout; and maintaining public trust values.

39-3

We already have a lot of water control on the Truckee river. Please do not allow the re-construction of the Farad hydroelectric dam or the construction of any new dams on the Truckee River .

Thank you for your consideration on this important issue.

Sincerely,



August B. Cenname
Resident

Response to Comment Letter Number 39

Response to Comment Number 39-1

Please see Master Response Alternative 1.

Response to Comment Number 39-2

Please see Master Responses Need 3 and Recreation 1.

Response to Comment Number 39-3

Please see Master Responses Alternative 1 and Need 1.

PATTY LOMANTO
12485 HILLSIDE DRIVE
TRUCKEE, CA 96161

May 2, 2002

Mr. Russ Kanz
California State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Re: Farad Dam Proposal

Dear Mr. Kanz

I support the "No Project" alternative because by not rebuilding the Farad diversion dam we will best meet the state and federal goals and objectives for the Truckee River, including water quality objectives, providing optimum flows for fish, recreation, and other beneficial uses, and restoring the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout, and maintaining public trust values.

40-1

In addition, if the dam were to be rebuilt, than the proposed mitigation measures intended to provide for safe boating and fish passage over the dam, as well as provide whitewater flows for one weekend per month should be adopted. Additional mitigation measures are needed if the dam were rebuilt. These include providing minimum fish flows of 250 cubic feet per second instead of the proposed 150. Biologists consider 250 cfs to be optimum fish flows for the Truckee River. This is particularly important for the restoration of native fish such as the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout. Finally, if the dam is rebuilt we must provide public access around the diversion dam for boaters who do not wish to boat over the dam.

40-2

40-3

40-4

As a resident of Truckee I enjoy the free flowing of the river along Interstate 80 because it is very scenic and needs to be preserved in as natural state as possible and rebuilding the dam will produce an insignificant amount of energy and Sierra Pacific can utilize its Truckee River water rights using other existing downstream diversions.

40-5

Sincerely,



Patty Lomanto

Response to Comment Letter Number 40

Response to Comment Number 40-1

Please see Master Response Alternative 1.

Response to Comment Number 40-2

Issuance of the water quality certification would legally require the applicant to apply the mitigation measures set forth in the CEQA findings for the project.

Response to Comment Number 40-3

Please see Master Response Fish 3.

Response to Comment Number 40-4

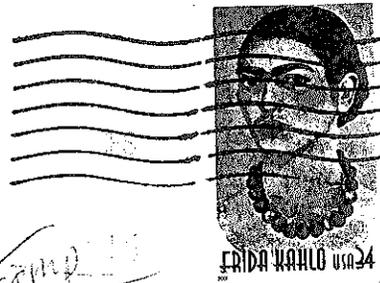
Please see Master Response Recreation 2.

Response to Comment Number 40-5

Comment noted. Please see Master Response Need 1.

ART OF THE PLACE: *Nicholas Fejatehe*
 ABORIGINAL PAINTINGS FROM BALGO HILLS
 Helicopter, b. late 1940s
 Purrundjarri Rockhole, in the Great Sandy Desert, 1996
 Acrylic on linen, 90 x 60 cm (35 1/4 x 23 3/4 in.)
 Artist's subsection: Tjungurai
 Kukatja language group
 This country belongs to the artist. He has depicted a series of waterholes and soaks which sustained him and his family when they were still nomads - wandering the country in search of food.

4283
 OAKLAND CA
 3/6/00
 2000



DEAR MR KANZ,
 AS A 5th generation CALIFORNIAN
 AND AVID USER OF OUR STATES
 PRISINE NATURAL RESOURCES
 I HIGHLY ENCOURAGE YOU
 TO NOT REBUILD THE FITTARD
 DAM ON THE TRUCKEE RIVER
 AS I UNDERSTAND NOT REBUILDING
 THE DAM WILL MEET WATER QUALITY
 OBJECTIVES AT A STATE & FEDERAL LEVEL AS WELL AS RESERVING
 HABITAT AND CATCHMENT POPULATION.

BOX 6099, ROHNERT PARK, CA 94927

~~Date Stamp
 END~~

Russ KANZ
 STATE WATER R.C.B.
 OWR
 POB 2000
 SACRAMENTO CA
 95812-2000

41-1

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 Warlayirti Artists Aboriginal Corporation.

Thank you,
 Nicholas Fejatehe

Response to Comment Letter Number 41

Response to Comment Number 41-1

Comment noted. Please see Master Response Alternative 1.

March 29, 2002

Russ Kanz
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
PO Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Dear Mr. Kanz,

I am writing to express my opinion on the recent dam initiative on the Truckee River. I am an avid boater and outdoor enthusiast. I support the "No Project" alternative because not rebuilding the Farad diversion dam best meets the state and federal goals and objectives for the Truckee.

42-1

If the dam is rebuilt, then proposed mitigation measures should be adopted to provide for safe boating and fish passage over the dam, and provide whitewater flows for one weekend or more a month. Additionally, there should be minimum fish flows of 250 cubic feet per second (cfs) as recommended by biologists, instead of the proposed 150 cfs. This is very important to protect the Lahontan cutthroat trout. Also as a part of mitigation measures, there should be public access provided so that boaters do not have to boat over the dam.

42-2

42-3

I appreciate your time in reading this letter and look forward to your reply with your comments to:

Kathleen Nora Marsh
150 Virginia Street
Auburn, CA 95603

Thanks very much,


Kathleen Nora Marsh

Response to Comment Letter Number 42

Response to Comment Number 42-1

Comment noted. Please see Master Response Alternative 1.

Response to Comment Number 42-2

Issuance of the water quality certification will legally require SPPC to apply the mitigation measures approved by the SWRCB. These measures provide for fish and recreational boater passage. See Master Response Recreation 1, an additional mitigation measure has been added that, if implemented, will eliminate weekend boating flows.

Please also see Master Response Fish 3.

Response to Comment Number 42-3

Please see Master Responses Fish 1 and Fish 3.

March 29, 2002

Dear Mr. Kanz-

I strongly urge you to reject the idea of a dam on the Truckee River. The Farad diversion dam is a bad project. The best plan would be NO DAM for the sake of beauty + function of natural resources on the river and for the entire environment of the basin.

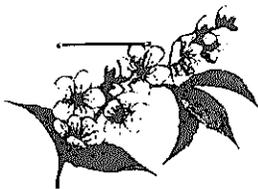
Please see the big picture and see such little gain for such an unnecessary and damaging enterprise.

Most sincerely,
Mrs. R.H. Strecker
135 Campo Rd.
P.O. Box 94028

Response to Comment Letter Number 43

Response to Comment Number 43-1

Comment noted. Please see Master Responses Alternative 1 and Need 1.



Dorothy Geisler
13811 Thunderbird Dr. Apt. 56A
Seal Beach, CA 90740



To Russ Kang, April 27, 2002

I ~~can't~~ didn't attend the board meeting obviously - If I could have, I would have spoken against rebuilding the FARAD DAM. It didn't produce enough energy originally to make it worthwhile to rebuild it (costs are too high now) - More important we now have The Truckee River restored for aquatic habitat and great recreational activities - Let Sierra Pacific use other existing diversions for power that are downstream. Thank you for adding my written comments to the record -

44-1

44-2

Sincerely,
Dorothy Geisler



SUPPORTER
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND



Response to Comment Letter Number 44

Response to Comment Number 44-1

Please see Master Response Need 1.

Response to Comment Number 44-2

Please see Master Response Need 1.

KK

Comment Letter Number 45

April 26, 2002

Russ Kanz
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
PO Box 2000
Sacramento CA 95812-2000

Dear Russ Kanz,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the plans to reconstruct the Farad hydroelectric dam. With the dam's destruction by the flood in 1997, the area around the dam has largely restored itself and now provides excellent fish and aquatic habitat as well as outstanding opportunities for angling and boating. To begin construction of a new dam would once again upset the habitat, and further destroy opportunities for people to enjoy this section of the river for years to come.

45-1

We don't need the dam. Don't let the energy scandals of the past two years prejudice your decision. It produces a nearly insignificant amount of energy, especially with the time, money and man-hours that will be needed to rebuild this structure. Spend it where it is needed. People in both Nevada and California will not be able enjoy, let alone use, the area for many years to come. WE do not require the dam. Not rebuilding the Farad diversion dam bests meets state and federal goals and objectives for the Truckee River, including water quality objectives; restoring the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout; and maintaining public trust values.

45-2

45-3

If the dam were to be rebuilt, we need boat and fish passages as mitigation measures. We need to provide for safe boating and fish passage over the dam, as well as provide whitewater flows on a regular schedule for whitewater kayak enthusiasts to enjoy. We need to provide a minimum fish flow of 250 cubic feet per second (cfs) instead of the proposed 150 cfs. Biologists consider 250 cfs to be optimum fish flows for the Truckee River. This is particularly important for the restoration of native fish such as the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout. Some boaters may not want to boat over the dam, we need a passage to allow them to circumvent the dam safely.

45-4

Please consider the ramifications of this project. They must outweigh whatever benefits the Farad dam could possibly impart if it is rebuilt. Spend the money on more worthwhile projects around the county and the state. We love having the free flow that runs through that area now.

Respectfully yours,



Ken Brown

Response to Comment Letter Number 45

Response to Comment Number 45-1

Please see Master Response Alternative 1.

Response to Comment Number 45-2

Please see Master Response Need 1.

Response to Comment Number 45-3

Please see Master Response Alternative 1.

Response to Comment Number 45-4

Issuance of the water quality certification will legally require SPPC to apply the mitigation measures approved by the SWRCB. These measures provide for fish and recreational boater passage. See Master Response Recreation 1, an additional mitigation measure has been added that, if implemented, will eliminate weekend boating flows. Please also see Master Response Fish 3.

No Dam at Farad

To: Russ Kanz
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Right.

I attendend the public meeting Friday 4/26 at the Truckee Council Chambers. I am asking for you to support the "NO Project" alternative.

The Truckee River has restored it's self to a natural bed and flow sense the 1997 flood. The eco system has had a change to recover from years of neglect and missuses. To leave The Truckee River in it's current State would show remarkable wisdom and foresight on your part.

If this dam is built providing minimum fish flows of 250 cfs instead of the proposed 150 cfs would vastly improve the restoration of native fish and other river critters. Anything less the 150 cfs would be unexeptable.

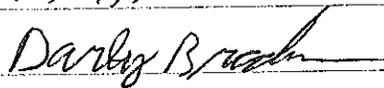
This Section of the Truckee River has become very popular for boating with the access and quality of the river being well above average. Providing whitewater boating flows one weekend per month should be adapted. Providing public access for portage or take out

for boaters who do not wish to boat over
The dam.

46-3
cont'd

Please support the "No Project" alternative
this will insure the eco system survival and
show the boating community that Truckee River is
worth more than 250KW.

Sincerely,



Darby Brookman

10294 Cromley Sq.

Truckee, CA 96161

email: darbybrookman@jps.net

Response to Comment Letter Number 46

Response to Comment Number 46-1

Please see Master Responses Need 3 and Alternative 1.

Response to Comment Number 46-2

Please see Master Response Fish 3.

Response to Comment Number 46-3

Please see Master Response Recreation 1.

April 23, 2002

55 KANZ
Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
Box 2000
FARMERS, CA 95812-2000

Dear Mr. KANZ,

I am writing regarding the Farad dam proposal on the Truckee River. I support the "No Project" alternative because by not rebuilding the dam the state & federal goals for the river are best met. Water quality, optimum fish flows, and recreation are all best fulfilled if the river is left as it is right now. As residents of Truckee we look spending time on the Truckee River. As recreational boaters the absence of the dam has enabled us to enjoy the river even more. The Farad dam degraded fish & wildlife habitat and created a hazard for recreational river swimmers (which are increasing at a rapid rate). It provided very little power for Sierra Pacific which can daily utilize its Truckee River water rights with other existing downstream users.

47-1

47-2

Re-building the Farad dam would be a large expense with very little benefit. We urge you to support the "No Project" Alternative in regards to this issue. Thank you.

47-3

Sincerely,
Damaris & Marc Gaddard
P.O. Box 2028
Truckee, CA 96160

Response to Comment Letter Number 47

Response to Comment Number 47-1

Please see Master Response Alternative 1.

Response to Comment Number 47-2

Please see Master Responses Need 1 and Cost 1.

Response to Comment Number 47-3

Please see Master Response Need 1.

April 22, 2002

Russ Kanz
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
PO Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Dear Mr. Kanz,

Please include my comments in the evaluation of the proposal to reconstruct the Farad Dam on the Truckee River.

I support the "No Project" alternative. I'm a kayaker who values the recreational potential of this stretch of the river, and I also believe restoration of the Lahontan Cutthroat trout should receive priority. Not rebuilding the Farad diversion dam best meets state and federal goals and objectives for the Truckee River, including water quality objectives; providing optimum flows for fish, recreation, and other beneficial uses; restoring the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout; and maintaining public trust values.

| 48-1

| 48-2

Sincerely,

Brad Monsma
10315 Wescott Ave.
Sunland, CA 91040

Response to Comment Letter Number 48

Response to Comment Number 48-1

Please see Master Response Alternative 1.

Response to Comment Number 48-2

Please see Master Response Cost 1.

4-22-02

Re: Rebuilding the Farad Diversion Dam

Dear Mr. Kanz,

This is just a note to tell you I support the "No Project" alternative regarding the issue of whether the Farad diversion dam should be rebuilt. I believe that not rebuilding the Farad diversion dam best meets state and federal goals and objectives for the Truckee River, including water quality objectives; providing optimum flows for fish, recreation, and other beneficial uses; restoring the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout; and maintaining public trust values.

49-1

However, if the dam were to be rebuilt (which I do not support), then the proposed mitigation measures intended to provide for safe boating and fish passage over the dam should be adopted. I am NOT in favor of the "bumping" of the flow one weekend per month for whitewater rafting because I believe that large fluctuations in the flow in such a short period of time will have an adverse effect on the fishery. In addition, if the dam were rebuilt, I believe the minimum fish flows of 250 cubic feet per second (cfs) should be maintained instead the proposed 150 cfs. I'm told that biologists consider 250 cfs to be optimum fish flows for the Truckee River. This is particularly important for the restoration of native fish such as the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout.

49-2

49-3

49-4

Thank you for your consideration.


Steve Johnston

Walnut Creek, California

stevejohnston@earthlink.net

Response to Comment Letter Number 49

Response to Comment Number 49-1

Please see Master Response Alternative 1.

Response to Comment Number 49-2

Issuance of a water quality certification would legally require SPPC to apply the mitigation measures approved by the SWRCB.

Response to Comment Number 49-3

Please see Master Response Fish 4.

Response to Comment Number 49-4

Please see Master Response Fish 3.

4-22-2002
Mr. Russ Kanz
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
P O Box 2000
Sacramento CA 95812-2000

Dear Mr. Kanz

I am writing to protest the projected rebuilding of the Farad Dam on the Truckee River by the Sierra Pacific Power Co. The Truckee is a beautiful and scenic wild river- and without artificial barriers like the Farad Dam, has been allowed to renew itself as a natural ecosystem- as it is now, the river provides for bountiful recreational opportunities, fishing, and just as a piece of valuable wild real estate, should be left in its recovered state. Even if the dam were to be rebuilt, severe mitigation measures would need to be undertaken including diversions for threatened trout species, and for public access for people in boats who do not wish to be inconvenienced by the dam.

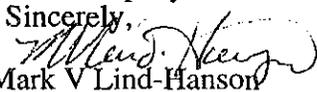
50-1

The energy companies of California have broken their trust with the ratepayers over the past year- public confidence in energy companies will not be restored by companies that seek to destroy our state's natural beauty in the name of short term profits. The Sierra Pacific Company has yet to prove itself worthy of regaining the public's trust- indeed, all energy companies currently in California that exploit our hydro-power providing rivers have a responsibility to keep the ecosystems of these watersheds vibrant with naturally occurring plant and animal life. It is a scientific fact that dams harm biodiversity in rivers creeks and streams- where they serve no natural or soacial function, ie, where their presence is not required for flood control purposes- the building of dams should be considered in every case against the price said dam represents to the natural world.

50-2

It is our opinion that the Farad Dam project must be abandoned, and the Sierra Pacific Power Company be forced to go elsewhere for business.

Sincerely,


Mark V Lind-Hanson

Response to Comment Letter Number 50

Response to Comment Number 50-1

Issuance of a water quality certification would legally require SPPC to apply the mitigation measures approved by the SWRCB.

Response to Comment Number 50-2

Please see Master Responses Need 1 and Cost 1. SPPC is legally obligated to fulfill all mitigation and monitoring requirements under the Section 401 permit.

April 20, 2002.

Russ Kanz
State Water Resources Control Board,
Division of Water Rights,
PO Box 2000,
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Re: Truckee River Dam at Farad

Dear Mr. Kanz:

I am writing to urge you to stop the plans for the reconstruction of the Farad dam on the Truckee river. Building this dam will degrade valuable aquatic habitat critical to threatened species such as the native Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, will degrade the overall watershed, and reduce the quality of the recreation opportunities in the area.

51-1

The benefits of Hydro projects seldom outweigh the environmental damage which they cause. However, in this case, it is easy to see the impact of a dam at Farad; anyone who experienced the river before and after the last dam was washed out in the '97 flood can provide witness to the harmful effects of this facility and the improvement in the watershed since its demise. With the dam gone, lows are maintained in a consistent, natural pattern. Spawning habitat for trout has improved, along with the overall water quality of the river upstream of Farad. In addition, recreational opportunities for both fishing and whitewater rafting have improved immensely.

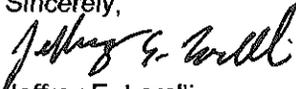
51-2

I urge you to consider the negative impact this dam will have to the Truckee watershed for a very insignificant gain in power generation. The risks in this case far outweigh any benefits.

51-3

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey E. Lorelli
37864 Palmer Drive
Fremont, CA 94536

Response to Comment Letter Number 51

Response to Comment Number 51-1

Comment noted. Please see Master Response Alternative 1.

Response to Comment Number 51-2

Please see Master Response Cost 1.

Response to Comment Number 51-3

Comment noted. Please see Master Responses Need 1 and Cost 1.